



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/574,772

12/13/2006

Walter Wolf

016906-0490

2539

22428 7590 03/06/2008

FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP  
SUITE 500  
3000 K STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

PATEL, KIRAN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3612

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/06/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/574,772	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WOLF, WALTER	
	<b>Examiner</b> /Kiran B. Patel/	<b>Art Unit</b> 3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

Art Unit: 3612

**Detailed Action****Election and Restriction  
(3/7/08)**

1. This application, as best understood, contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Species A - directed towards Fig. 1
- Species B - directed towards Fig. 2
- Species C - directed towards Fig. 3
- Species D - directed towards Fig. 4
- Species E - directed towards Fig. 5
- Species F - directed towards Fig. 6
- Species G - directed towards Fig. 7
- Species H - directed towards Fig. 8

2. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species and associated figures for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. As best understood, Examiner has identified the Species (A, B, C, etc.) but Applicant may amend, with a detailed explanation, the composition of each species (A, B, C, etc.) to include associated/respective figures/limitations to distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Currently, there appears to be no claim, which is generic to all species.

3. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species and associated figures that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable *only* on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

4. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by

**Deleted: ¶**

<del>Restriction to one of the following inventions is required because this application, as best understood, contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions. Applicant is requested to elect a single invention and associated figures for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable:¶  
Invention A - claims 1-13, directed towards a structural panel. ¶  
Invention B - claims 14, directed towards an automotive vehicle to include a flexible substrate suspended upon the active elements. ¶  
Invention C - claims 15-16, directed towards a method. ¶  
Invention D - claims 17, directed towards ¶  
Invention E - claims 18, directed towards ¶  
Invention F - claims 19, directed towards ¶  
Invention G - claims 20, directed towards ¶  
¶  
Restriction for examination purpose as indicated above is proper because each of these above inventions having various/different limitations are distinct as outlined above and therefore acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter and there was ... [1]

**Formatted: Bullets and Numbering****Deleted:**

**Deleted:** Species I - directed towards Fig. ¶  
Species J - directed towards Fig. ¶  
Species K - directed towards Fig. ¶  
Species L - directed towards Fig. ¶  
Species M - directed towards Fig. ¶  
Species N - directed towards ... [2]

**Formatted: Bullets and Numbering****Formatted: Bullets and Numbering****Formatted: Bullets and Numbering**

Art Unit: 3612

37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP, 809.02(a).

5. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the Examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

6. A telephone call was made for the Attorney/Agent responsible for this application to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventor ship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventor ship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

/Kiran B. Patel/

Kiran B. Patel P.E.  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612  
March 7, 2008